Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection



Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 02 May 2003

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Current Nationwide
Threat Level is

Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports the government announced plans Wednesday to eliminate 3,000 more airport screening jobs by the end of September, which coupled with 3,000 others announced in March, will amount to about 11 percent of the 55,600 screeners employed. (See item 5)
- The Waterloo Courier reports a federal investigator will be looking into a water system vandalism case in Maynard, Iowa, where about 50 gallons of chlorine was dumped on the ground after vandals apparently left a valve on a bulk tank open. (See item 9)
- Newsday reports scientists have concluded that Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome may not be just a respiratory disease; some clusters of cases may have resulted from an entirely different, gastrointestinal cycle of the virus. (See item 12)

DHS/IAIP Update Fast Jump

Production Industries: Energy; Chemical; Defense Industrial Base

Service Industries: Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping

Sustenance and Health: Agriculture; Food; Water; Public Health

Federal and State: Government; Emergency Services

IT and Cyber: Information and Telecommunications; Internet Alert Dashboard

Other: General: DHS/IAIP Web Information

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: <u>Physical</u>: Elevated, <u>Cyber</u>: Elevated Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – http://esisac.com]

1. May 01, New York Times — Extraordinary reactor leak gets the industry's attention. Reactor experts around the country hope that there is something unique about Reactor No. 1 at the South Texas Project near Bay City. If not, the little crust of white powder that technicians found at the bottom of the reactor vessel, a discovery that has brought operations here to a halt for the indefinite future, could be the beginning of a broad problem for the nuclear power industry. But until the discovery here, on April 12, nobody had ever seen a leak on the bottom. A leak in that location is far harder to repair, and would be harder to control if a

significant hole developed in the vessel, although the chances of accident seem far smaller than they did in Ohio.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/01/national/01NUKE.html?ex=10 52790423d880ec4b

2. May 01, The Patriot—News (PA) — Governor Rendell cuts guards at nuke plants, draws flak. On the same day that the FBI issued a bulletin warning of possible terrorist activity around nuclear power plants, Gov. Ed Rendell stopped round—the—clock surveillance yesterday by state police and the National Guard at Three Mile Island (near Harrisburg, PA) and the state's other nuclear plants. State police and Guard units will conduct random patrols, including aerial surveillance, monitor intelligence reports and develop rapid—response plans, state police Commissioner Jeffrey Miller said. The governor's announcement drew criticism from the nuclear watchdog group Three Mile Island Alert, from state Sen. Jeffrey Piccola, R—Susquehanna Twp., and from about a dozen members of the state House of Representatives who have nuclear plants in their districts. The biggest complaint appeared to be the administration's failure to notify legislators and local representatives, including Dauphin County Emergency Management Agency officials, of the decision ahead of time. Rendell's decision came on the recommendation of a task force that includes representatives of the state police, National Guard, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, federal Department of Homeland Security and the nuclear industry.

Source: http://www.pennlive.com/news/patriotnews/index.ssf?/xml/stor v.ssf/html standard.xsl?/base/news/1051781616113460.xml

3. April 30, New York Times — Indian Point plants restarted after fire and power failure. The two plants that make up the Indian Point nuclear power complex were restarted today, Wednesday, after a power failure on Monday and a fire on Tuesday had shut them down. The restoration of generating at the plants came as a report released by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission gave a generally satisfactory review of the commission's oversight of Indian Point since the mid–1990's. The commission's office of inspector general started the inquiry in the spring of 2001 at the request of Congress. The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 raised concern about Indian Point's vulnerability amid a growing chorus of demands by both residents and public officials to close the plants permanently. Even before September 11, the plants were under scrutiny for their poor safety record. In February 2000, a tube ruptured in a steam generator in Indian Point 2, causing a radioactive leak and closing the reactor for nearly a year. At one time the commission rated the reactor's performance the worst in the country.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/01/nyregion/01NUKE.html

4. April 30, Platts Global Energy News — U.S. crude imports from Saudi Arabia near record. U.S. crude oil imports from Saudi Arabia, now estimated at slightly more than 2-mil b/d over the past four weeks, are reaching levels not seen in 12 years, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said Wednesday. "Only once, in May 1991, following the end of the first Gulf War, have U.S. crude oil imports from Saudi Arabia averaged more than 2-mil b/d over a whole month," EIA said in its This Week in Petroleum Report. Based on its preliminary, unofficial weekly import data, "it does appear that crude oil imports from Saudi Arabia in April may average close to this level," EIA said. "If their production remained at high levels in April, it's likely that large amounts of crude oil from Saudi Arabia may continue to

arrive here (in May)," EIA said. But the situation is different for Iraq. Based on the unofficial data, the U.S. continued to import significant volumes of Iraqi crude during the week ending April 25. However, with Iraqi oil exports stopping in mid–March as the war began and given the 4–6 week shipping time, "crude oil imports from Iraq should stop completely at some point over the next few weeks, meaning... imports from Iraq in May will be almost non–existent," EIA said.

Source: http://www.platts.com/stories/oil1.html

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

Nothing to report.

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Transportation Sector

- 5. May 01, Associated Press Transportation Security Administration: 6,000 airport screening jobs to be slashed by September. The government announced plans Wednesday to eliminate 3,000 more airport screening jobs by the end of September. The cuts, coupled with 3,000 others announced in March, amount to about 11 percent of the 55,600 screeners employed. The moves will save the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) an estimated \$280 million, director James Loy said. "TSA is entering a new stage in its maturation," Loy said of the 17-month-old agency. The first 3,000 cuts will be made by May 31, the rest by September 30. Loy said the TSA will try to trim the work force through attrition and putting some workers on part-time hours. Loy said the cuts won't diminish security, though it's possible they could add some time to the screening process. A 10-minute wait limit is still the goal, he said. Airline security advocate Paul Hudson said the job cuts would compromise airport security unless the TSA improves other parts of the system. For example, he said, buying more van-sized bomb-detection machines would mean fewer screeners would be needed to operate the labor-intensive wands that detect traces of explosives. Source: http://www.cnn.com/2003/TRAVEL/05/01/airport.security.ap/ind ex.html
- 6. April 30, Government Executive Magazine Administration will seek \$14B for transportation safety initiative. The Bush administration is set to ask Congress to provide the

Transportation Department with \$14 billion in new funds to pursue a new transportation safety initiative championed by Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, sources close to the issue said Wednesday. Mineta announced the package during a closed—door meeting with highway construction officials, explaining the safety proposal will be the "centerpiece" of the White House's Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) reauthorization proposal. Details of the safety plan are yet unavailable, and it is unclear how much of the money will be spent on infrastructure safety projects and how much will go into other transportation—related areas, such as seat belts.

Source: http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0403/043003cd1.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

- 7. May 01, Indiana Ag Connection Herbicide resistance growing like weeds. Farmers applying popular herbicides to their fields one day might receive an unwelcome chemical reaction: weeds ignoring the products altogether. Scores of crop—damaging weeds are developing immunity to even the strongest herbicides in farmers' arsenals, said Bill Johnson, Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service weed specialist. What's more, fewer chemical methods for controlling the undesired vegetation are being introduced to replace them. "We are developing glyphosate—resistant weeds at a rate of about one new species per year over the last four years," he said. "There are about 250 species of herbicide—resistant weeds in the world. The highest number is in areas where production row—crop agriculture is most intense and relies almost exclusively on herbicides for weed control. That would be North America, Australia and Europe."
 - Source: http://www.indianaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=280=2003
- 8. April 29, Agriculture Online Stress resistant wheat in the pipeline. Ten years from now, wheat growers may have drought and salt resistant wheat varieties to plant. Molecular biologists at Oklahoma State University have announced progress in developing a new strategy to genetically engineer wheat to make it more resistant to these stressors while improving yield. The biologists improved stress tolerance by introducing a gene, derived from corn and two common bacteria, that synthesizes a naturally occurring sugar alcohol called mannitol. Source: http://www.agriculture.com/default.sph/AgNews.class?FNC=side
 BarMore ANewsindex http://www.agriculture.com/default.sph/AgNews.class?FNC=side
 BarMore ANewsindex http://www.agriculture.com/default.sph/AgNews.class?FNC=side

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

Water Sector

9. April 30, Waterloo Courier — Water system vandals in Maynard spark probe. A federal investigator will be looking into a vandalism case in Maynard, IA. The victim: the city's water supply. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wants to know what happened in an incident in which the town's chlorine supply was drained April 18. About 50 gallons of chlorine was dumped on the ground after vandals apparently left a valve on a bulk tank open, said Ryan Stouder of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Tests conducted by the DNR showed no problem with the water supply, but the city used an alternate well while equipment was cleaned and the chlorine was replaced. Because homeland security has been tightened, events like this are taken seriously, said Kathy Lee of the DNR's emergency response team.

Source: http://www.wcfcourier.com/regional/030430watersystem.html

10. April 30, Detroit News — Storm water rules tax local budgets. Communities across Michigan are spending millions of dollars in a new campaign to attack the last remaining uncontrolled source of Great Lakes pollution, storm water runoff. The government—mandated effort comes as a substantial burden to cities already suffering from steep budget cuts. At issue is a requirement in the federal Clean Water Act that communities receive a storm water runoff permit. In essence, they'll have to find ways to remove some of the pollution that collects in rain and snowmelt from parking lots, roads, industrial sites and the like. "It's not going to be cheap and easy," said David Drullinger, environmental quality analyst with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, which is administering the program for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The storm water guidelines have cost Canton Township four years of pre—permit planning and an estimated \$739,000 annually in programs and staffing costs. Warren spent \$500,000 in four years preparing for the permit and now spends between \$900,000 and \$1 million annually to keep up with its storm water programs. Oakland County set aside \$1 million to help its communities consult experts to map out storm water improvements.

Source: http://www.detnews.com/2003/metro/0304/30/a01-151398.htm

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Public Health Sector

11. May 01, Washington Times — Virologists watch for SARS mutation. As scientists around the world work to find vaccines and diagnostic tests for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), some worry that the virus could mutate, making their job even more difficult. "This has been very much on the mind of the virologists and those of us in public health," said Dr. William Schaffner, chairman of the department of preventive medicine and a professor of infectious diseases at the Vanderbilt Medical School. "If it did that, it would make the challenge of developing a vaccine very, very much greater." "Time will tell, and it's one of the unanswered questions," said Dr. James M. Hughes, director of Infectious Disease at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "What you need to do is monitor the virus

over a period of time and see what happens." **Dr. Julie L. Gerberding, director of the CDC, talked Tuesday about efforts to develop a reliable diagnostic test, and noted SARS is a form of the coronavirus, which can change as it replicates itself. "It would not be surprising for this to occur," she told a Senate panel.**

Source: http://washingtontimes.com/national/20030501-80789686.htm

12. May 01, Newsday — SARS not just respiratory disease, also gastrointestinal. Scientists have concluded that Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) may not be just a respiratory disease: Some clusters of cases may have resulted from an entirely different, gastrointestinal cycle of the virus. The findings don't offer optimism for gaining control of the epidemic. Using masks and other means to guard against exhaled droplets is one thing; blocking fecal contamination of water supplies and food processing, especially in poor countries, is quite another. "We now realize that we see two different clinical courses of this disease depending on the port of entry" for the virus into the body, the World Health Organization's top virologist Dr. Klaus Stohr said in a telephone interview from WHO's Geneva headquarters. "Feces transmission is definitely a concern." In other words, inhalation of the virus results in a respiratory disease, whereas transmission via fecal contamination causes gastrointestinal symptoms.

Source: http://www.newsday.com/news/health/ny-hssars013262186may01,0_612726.story?coll=ny-health-headlines

13. April 30, Associated Press — Chickens guard against virus in Monterey, Santa Cruz counties. A squadron of chickens is standing guard against West Nile Virus in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties in California. The sentinel chickens have been set out in areas frequented by mosquitoes, which carry the lethal illness. They'll be staying until October. Between now and then, mosquitoes are busy looking for standing water where they can lay eggs. Health officials say they don't expect to be able to stop the disease as it marches west, but they hope the chickens will let them know when West Nile arrives in the area. Source: http://www.heraldtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?Date=2003 0501No=305010737=5

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Government Sector

14. May 01, Washington Post — Center to assess terrorist threat. The Bush administration is launching a new counterterrorism center on Thursday to remedy intelligence—gathering problems revealed in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, but the plan is already coming under criticism as a wasteful duplication of other agencies' work. The Terrorist Threat Integration Center (TTIC), first announced by President Bush earlier this year in his State of the Union address, will bring together representatives from across the government to monitor threat information gathered by other agencies and provide analysis to the White House and others. Officials said the threat center, which will start with a skeleton staff of 60 in temporary quarters at CIA headquarters in Langley, will begin operations on Thursday by immediately taking responsibility for compiling the top—secret Daily Threat Matrix, an analysis that forms the backbone for much of the administration's strategy in assessing terrorist attacks. Director John O. Brennan, a 23—year CIA veteran, told reporters that the center will allow the CIA, FBI, National Security Agency and other

agencies to better "connect the dots" in assessing terrorist threats by improving the flow of information within the U.S. intelligence community.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A62524-2003Apr 30.html

15. May 01, USA Today — FBI chief says the war with al Qaeda is not over. Al Qaeda's ability to strike the United States has been diminished substantially, but the terrorist group remains capable of launching a multicity attack similar to the assaults on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, FBI Director Robert Mueller said Wednesday in a meeting with USA TODAY reporters and editors. "The war with al Qaeda is not over," Mueller said. "We have not won it by any stretch of the imagination. Al Qaeda still seeks to attack us and has the capacity to do it. Will we be attacked by terrorists in the future? Yes." In a wide—ranging discussion, Mueller also said interviews with thousands of Iraqis in the U.S. helped lead to the arrests of some officials in Saddam Hussein's regime. "There have been a number of cases where we have provided information, along with other sources, that led to the detention of senior figures in the Iraqi regime," Mueller said. Much of the information was obtained by FBI agents in interviews with nearly 10,000 Iraqis living in the U.S. Many of those interviewed were former Iraqi government officials, scientists, academics and others who fled Saddam's brutal regime.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2003-04-30-mueller-u sat x.htm

16. April 30, U.S. Department of State — Release of the 2002 "Patterns of Global Terrorism" annual report. Exerpts from Secretary of State Collin Powell's remarks on the release of the report: The international campaign against terrorism must press forward on every front: diplomatic, intelligence, law enforcement, financial and military. As our report indicates, 2002 saw an increase in global resolve and effectiveness against terrorism and a significant decrease in the number of terrorist attacks, from 355 in 2001, down to 199 in 2002. That said, last year, terrorist attacks occurred in every region of the world. The terrorist bombings in Bali last October killed some 200 people from two dozen different countries. That same month, terrorists took 800 people hostage in a Moscow theater, the largest terrorist kidnapping ever. Terrorists also struck in Mombassa, killing 15 people in a hotel, while attempting to murder many more by firing a missile at a commercial airliner. Of the 725 people who perished as a result of terrorism in 2002, 30 were United States citizens.

Source: http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2003/20067.htm

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Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to report.

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

17. May 01, CNET News.com — Lucent CEO tapped for U.S. security. President Bush has enlisted Lucent Technologies' chief executive Patricia Russo as a member of the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC). The NSTAC, created in 1982

by President Reagan, provides analysis and recommendations to the president regarding policy that affects national security and emergency preparedness tied to telecommunications. The terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington D.C. on September 11, 2001, exposed the susceptibility of the nation's telecommunications networks, which suffered widespread outages. In the aftermath, the NSTAC's importance swelled in its role to make the telecommunications infrastructure more secure. Russo will be involved with a wide range of policy and technical issues related to telecommunications, infrastructure protection and homeland security.

Source: http://news.com.com/2100-1037 3-999204.html

18. April 30, vnunet — British law enforcement issues stark cyber-crime warning. The head of the National High Tech Crime Unit (NHTCU) of the Great Britain has called on businesses to take cyber-crime more seriously. Detective superintendent Len Hynds told delegates attending the Infosecurity Europe 2003 show that cyber-crime is no different from any other criminal activity and needs to be treated as such. Hynds's remarks came as the NHTCU released the results of a survey on UK cyber-crime. Three quarters of the 150 UK businesses surveyed had suffered some form of high-tech crime. More than one in five companies didn't even conduct regular security audits.

Source: http://www.vnunet.com/News/1140559

19. April 28, National Post (Canada) — Ethical hackers uncover system problems. With the proliferation of e-commerce activity, a new breed of hacker has come along: "white hats," or ethical hackers, who dedicate themselves to identifying and exploiting flaws in supposedly impregnable software systems. Interest in hiring white-hat security investigations is on the rise. Some people point to the realities of the world after September 11, 2001, as the reason. "9/11 told us that virtually anything is possible now," says Trevor Townsend, national principal, critical infrastructure protection systems, IBM Global Services, in Ontario, Canada. "There's a new global security posture because terrorists will stop at nothing to achieve their ends...It has changed things for technology as a whole."

Source: http://www.nationalpost.com/search/site/story.asp?id=886020F C-51B0-406F-AB28-D23C4701E91C

Internet Alert Dashboard



	[Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10	137 (netbios-ns), 80 (www), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 25 (smtp), 445
Target	(microsoft-ds), 139 (netbios-ssn), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 113 (ident),
Ports	41170 (), 4672 ()
	Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

20. May 01, Reuters — Al Qaeda leader's nephew captured in Pakistan–U.S. A nephew of senior al Qaeda leader Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was among six people detained this week in Pakistan, U.S. officials said on Thursday. The nephew, Ali Abd al–Aziz also known as Ammar al–Baluchi, is in his mid–20s and was captured by Pakistani authorities in a raid that also netted a suspected mastermind of the bombing of the USS Cole in October 2000, U.S. officials said. His nephew was probably privy to any al Qaeda plots that Mohammed may have been working on, officials said. The nephew has "some of the experiences, connections, knowledge and wherewithal to continue some of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's terrorist plans," one U.S. official told Reuters. Another official said the nephew was on a lower rung in al Qaeda than Waleed Muhammad Bin Attash, suspected of involvement in the USS Cole bombing in Yemen and the September 11, 2001, attacks, who was rounded up in the same raid in Karachi on Tuesday.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A410-2003May1. html

- 21. May 01, New York Times British Muslims are seen moving into Mideast terrorism. After two suicide bombers in Israel were found to be British citizens, Britain faced suggestions on Thursday that young British Muslims, previously associated with militant Islamic groups in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and elsewhere, had shifted their focus to terrorism in the Middle East. The two Britons were identified as Asif Hanif, 21, who died in a bomb attack that killed three people in a Tel Aviv nightclub on Tuesday, and an accomplice, Omar Sharif, 27. They represented the first known instance in recent years of Britons prepared to kill themselves by setting off a terror attack. The news seemed to leave British officials stunned. "We think that the terrorists had British passports, which is something especially sad," said Sherard Cowper-Coles, Britain's ambassador in Israel.
 - $Source: \underline{http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/01/international/europe/01CND-BOMB.html}$
- 22. May 01, Embassy of the United States of America Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Embassy advisory for the American community in Saudi Arabia. The Embassy advises the American community in Saudi Arabia that it has received information that terrorist groups may be in the final phases of planning terrorist attacks on American interests in Saudi Arabia. We have no information as to the likely target. Terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian targets. The Embassy remains under authorized departure status for Mission non–essential personnel and dependents and has advised its employees and dependents to limit travel to essential business only. The U.S. Government remains deeply concerned about the security of U.S. citizens overseas. U.S. citizens are encouraged to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness.

Source: http://rivadh.usembassy.gov/wwwusc19.doc

23. May 01, Associated Press — One killed in suitcase explosion at Jordan airport. A bag exploded near the luggage screening area at Jordan's international airport Thursday evening, killing a security guard, authorities said. Police arrested the suspected owner of the bag, a Japanese journalist who told authorities he had no knowledge that he an explosive device in his possession, said officials involved in the investigation. The man detained at Queen Alia International Airport had arrived from Baghdad, said CNN correspondent Rula Amin, who was at the airport when the bag exploded. The official Petra news agency said three other people were injured. It called the bomb a "remnant from the war in Iraq." The bag was checked on an EgyptAir flight to Cairo, the officials said, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Panic ensued after the blast at the busy airport, where passengers were either being checked in or departing to various destinations, including France, Egypt, Lebanon, Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2003-05-01-jordan-explosi on x.htm

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DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web–site (http://www.nipc.gov), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

<u>DHS/IAIP Warnings</u> – DHS/IAIP Assessements, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

<u>DHS/IAIP Publications</u> – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

<u>DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive</u> – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at

Suggestions: 202–324–1129

Distribution Information Send mail to <u>nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov</u> for more information.

Contact DHS/IAIP

To report any incidents or to request information from DHS/IAIP, contact the DHS/IAIP Watch at nipc.watch@fbi.gov or call 202–323–3204.

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